

Research has been completed on the procedures and processes necessary to execute the first US-financed, debt-for-culture swap in order to provide funding for the preservation of a building complex within a historic district on the World Heritage List. Because of Ecuador's successful experience in using debt-for-nature swaps to create an expanded national park system, the US/ICOMOS effort has been focused on the potential application of this technique to the historic city center of Quito which is a World Heritage Site. Project funding proposals are currently being considered by foundations.

Serving as the secretariat to the ICOMOS International Specialized Committee on Cultural Tourism, US/ICOMOS was responsible for the development of the first international handbook designed to help the administrators of cultural sites on the World Heritage List in planning for, receiving, accommodating, educating, and servicing tourists. The handbook was distributed at the 10th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in Sri Lanka in 1993. Cultural tourism was one of the three major themes of this international gathering.

#### Regional Public Awareness and Recognition

With the support of the American Express Company's Philanthropic Program, US/ICOMOS planned and operated the American Express Historic Preservation Awards Program for the Caribbean in 1990-1992. Twenty-three awards have been presented, including \$60,000 in cash awards to six developing projects, in the eligible countries. In order to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of quality tourism development, the awards have been presented yearly during the annual conference of the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

In cooperation with the World Monuments Fund and with American Express Company support, an illustrated publication has been produced featuring the preservation and conservation of the cultural patrimony of the six member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). These countries are Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The publication represented the American Express Company's contribution to ASEAN's thematic year "Visit ASEAN 1992."

#### US/ICOMOS Specialized Committees

Several national committees have been created by US/ICOMOS to parallel some of the ICOMOS international committees: Archeological Heritage Management, Cultural Tourism, Earthen Architecture, Historic Landscapes, Historic Towns, and Training. With active members and leaders, these committees have begun to produce publications and documents of service to the field. A first edition of the *Historic Landscape Directory* has been compiled and published. A United States interpretation and version of the 1987 ICOMOS "Charter on Historic Towns and Urban Areas" has been written, adopted, and published for distribution. A special edition of the US/ICOMOS newsletter has been issued providing an international and national overview of work in progress related to earthen architecture.

#### Publications

Two new volumes, Numbers 3 and 4, in the US/ICOMOS series, "Historic Preservation in Other Countries," have been written and edited by dedicated members. Volume 3 features Poland; volume 4 features Turkey. (See sidebar on page 10 for more information.)

A new series, "Occasional Papers," includes "Air Pollution and Historic Monuments in Cracow"—which is the report of the National Park Service's delegation to a meeting held in Poland in June 1989—and "The Historic Forest, A Resource for Historic Preservation."

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Russell Keune, AIA, was formerly the Vice President for Programs, US/ICOMOS. Prior to his position at US/ICOMOS he was the Senior Vice President for Programs at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He started his professional career as a member of a HABS field team at Harpers Ferry in 1958.

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## Civil War Battlefield Parks—An Inspiration for Preservation in Poland

Tomasz Zwiech

I spent the end of 1989 and all of 1990 in the United States studying the management of Civil War battlefield parks administered by the National Park Service. These studies, funded by a Fulbright scholarship, generally focused on the issue of the preservation of these parks as cultural landscapes. More precisely, the studies consisted of three different layers of the issue. The first layer was to define the methods of conservation of the historic substance of the battlefields. This part of my study was designed to learn the techniques of conservation and maintenance of such objects as structures, fortifications, earthworks, trenches, historic land use or vegetation, and also monuments, statues, and markers that were installed after the battle. The character of that part of the study was strictly documentary and was focused generally on collecting data without further transformation/analysis.

A subsequent layer of my study was involved with the problems of the operation of a park established to commemorate/preserve a particular battlefield. The total integration of natural and cultural properties within a comprehensive preservation program proved to be very interesting, as did the organization of a system of preservation consisting of three spheres: resource management, interpretation, and maintenance. Historic preservationists in Europe pay more attention to the objects themselves and often consider as secondary the sharing of information and knowledge about them, relegating visitors' understanding to a back seat.

Americans have established a system of balanced interactions between the cultural and natural property, the visitor, and services responsible for research, conservation, and information. Recognition of the equal impor-

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conservation issues, as well as on the development of nearby tourism sites, including the Elephanta Caves (a Hindu site dating to the 6th century A.D.) and lesser-known Kanheri Caves (a Buddhist site dating to the 2nd century A.D.). The principal point made by the mission was simply the need to recognize the potential worth of historic architecture and sites in terms of development for tourism and resulting hard currency. The Victorian and Edwardian buildings of Bombay have yet to gain the world-wide attention that they deserve. It was recommended that the government and the tourism office continue in their efforts to highlight these buildings, both through continued funding for preservation and through future promotional material for the city. For funding, a greater reliance on private investment was presented as a priority. Government-owned buildings obviously would have to continue to rely on government funding. However, institutional buildings, such as the University or Wilson College—both outstanding Gothic Revival complexes—could begin to solicit money from now often well-placed alumni. For commercial properties, an abandonment, or at least modification of existing rent controls, was recommended.

The main thrust of our recommendations was that historic preservation need not be simply a luxury, one that at this point would seem impractical given India's social and economic conditions. Rather, it could be central to tourism development in Bombay and surrounding areas. As Robertson Collins emphasized, investment in older properties can help to preserve the unique character of cities and make them continuously popular tourist destinations. This was shown to be true in Singapore, where he now lives, and where preservation was supported as a key ingredient in the redevelopment of the historic core.

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#### Note

✦ Barbara Goodman, et.al., *Ajanta and Ellora Heritage Sites: Conservation and Tourism Enhancement Plan*. (Washington, DC: National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, in press.) See also Ronald W. Cooksy and Barbara Goodman, "National Park Service Cooperation in India," *Federal Archeology Report* 4, 2 (June 1991), 1,3.

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Dr. William Chapman formerly taught historic preservation in the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia. A member of the Board of Trustees of US/ICOMOS, he is now the Director of the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also was a historian with the NPS Mid-Atlantic Region.

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tance and inter-dependence of these three elements in a system of preservation secures success in reaching the main goal, which is the restoration of harmonious relations between a human, cultural traditions, and environment; in other words, between a human, the past, and the future. The consciousness of a need for such a harmony became extinct gradually during the Industrial Revolution. The preservation movement, which started at the end of the 19th century, was the first comprehensive reaction to the destruction of cultural heritage and the natural environment which was caused by the technology-panacea oriented human. The only reasons for historic preservation predating the conservation of nature were the sequence and spectacularness of the damages: e.g., destruction of a palace was easier both to accomplish and to notice than the pollution of air, water, or soil. Far-reaching progress in peoples' attitudes toward culture and nature has taken place since then. Now there is more than just a common belief in the significance of preservation—gradually we have become conscious about the real reason for it, which is not just a need for saving things that are endangered, but a need of looking at ourselves as a component of a very complicated and sensitive wholeness in which our own survival depends on a secure balance with other components. There is a sense of that need implicit in American preservation of battlefields and that is why I would like to apply the American system in Poland. Some adjustments of the system to Polish conditions are necessary. These issues are now the main subjects of my doctoral thesis.

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Tomasz Zweich is a landscape architect with the Board of Historical Gardens and Palaces Conservation in Warsaw, Poland.